

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 18408 220510Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----078754 220516Z /12
O 210954Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8162

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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS TO SECDEF, JCS, CINCPAC, CINCPACFLT,
CINCPACAF, CINCPACREPPHIL, 135# AF

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: PROPOSED STATEMENT FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 25 BRIEFING

REF: MANILA 18181

1. WHILE WE CANNOT ANTICIPATE PRECISELY WHAT MAY RESULT FROM NOVEMBER 25 PHILIPPINE BRIEFING AND RELATED DISCUSSION, WE BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE IN THE EVENT THEY CLEARLY WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TO HAVE DRAFT OF PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT WE CAN SUGGEST TO FILIPINOS FOR THEIR RELEASE. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING TEXT:

2. QUOTE: PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS WAS PRESENT TODAY (NOVEMBER 25) WHEN GENERAL ESPINO, CHIEF OF STAFF PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES, BRIEFED U.S. OFFICIALS ON PHILIPPINE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

3. QUOTE: THE BRIEFING FORMS PART OF THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE FUTURE OF THE U.S.

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MILITARY BASES.

4. QUOTE: THE OCCASION ALSO OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDER AND U.S. FACILITIES AT THE BASES.

5. QUOTE: IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER

DISCUSSIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEETING
OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD WHICH TAKES PLACE IN THE
PHILIPPINES IN DECEMBER. UNQUOTE.

6. IF WE ARE ASKED HERE, BY CORRESPONDENTS FOR U.S. MEDIA,
FOR ELABORATION, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

A. THE DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING WELL. THE PERSONAL
PARTICIPATION OF PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS BEEN VERY MUCH
APPRECIATED AND HELPFUL TO THE DISCUSSIONS.

B. THE AGREEMENT ON THE PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDER
AND THE DELIMITATION OF THOSE FACILITIES WHICH WILL REMAIN
UNDER U.S. COMMAND AND CONTROL WILL ESTABLISH IN THE
PHILIPPINE BASES PATTERNS COMMON ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD
WHERE THE U.S. HAS FACILITIES. DETAILS OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS
ARE BEING WORKED OUT.

C. (IF ASKED) ON THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION, WE
ANTICIPATE THAT, IF A SATISFACTORY BASIS OF COOPERATION
CAN BE ESTABLISHED THAT THERE WILL BE REQUESTS TO THE
CONGRESS FOR RELATED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO THE
PHILIPPINES. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT FORM THIS WILL
TAKE.

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D. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WILL PROCEED
THROUGH PERIODIC HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS, SUPPLEMENTED BY
COMMITTEE SESSIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES.
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO SAY HOW
LONG THIS PROCESS WILL TAKE. WE CAN SAY THAT THE
DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING WELL AND THAT WE SEEM TO BE NEARER
AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF MATTERS THAT WE WERE IN 1976.

E. (IF ASKED) I BELIEVE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS
AWARE OF THE CONCERNS IN THE U.S. EXECUTIVE AND THE
CONGRESS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. I HAVE MENTIONED THIS TO
PRESIDENT MARCOS IN OUR FIRST MEETING AND CONSIDER THAT
I HAVE A CONTINUING OBLIGATION TO KEEP HIM INFORMED OF U.S.
VIEWS IN THESE MATTERS. I LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS.
NEWSOM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS RELEASES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA18408
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770432-0411
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771135/aaaabdvdtel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9dbab114-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 MANILA 18181
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 508262
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED STATEMENT FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 25 BRIEFING
TAGS: MARR, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9dbab114-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009